

**From:** Governor Cooper's Press Office [govpress@nc.gov]  
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**Subject:** Weekly Newsletter: September 22, 2017



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

## Highlights of the Week

## Helping Communities Recover from Hurricane Matthew



On Thursday, Gov. Cooper traveled to Fair Bluff to thank students and staff of Columbus Career and College Academy (CCCA) for their volunteerism during and after Hurricane Matthew. Amid the devastation from Matthew, CCCA acted as a Red Cross emergency shelter, taking in neighbors affected by the hurricane. The governor also visited residents at a housing complex that recently reopened after being severely damaged in Hurricane Matthew.

"Help can't come quick enough for those who have been left homeless from a hurricane," Cooper said. "The recovery process is long and we still have a lot more work to do. We need to get people back into their former homes or into new, safer homes."

**[Read more about the governor's hurricane recovery visit here.](#)**

**6 Million Meals for Meals on Wheels**



On Wednesday, Gov. Cooper and First Lady Kristin Cooper delivered the 6 millionth meal with the Meals on Wheels program in Winston-Salem. The governor and first lady met with Rosalie Young, a Meals on Wheels recipient, and talked with her about the importance of the program to seniors across North Carolina. Gov. Cooper also recognized the hard work of the many volunteers who fight hunger statewide.

"These volunteers knock on people's doors and they visit them and deliver nutrition," Gov. Cooper said. "But they offer kindness and friendship and companionship and deliver a message on behalf of this community that we care about you."

**[Read more about Gov. Cooper's Meals on Wheels visit here.](#)**

**Protecting Our Drinking Water**



On Thursday, Gov. Cooper vetoed House Bill 56, arguing that the legislation only symbolically addresses unregulated, emerging contaminants in North Carolina's drinking water. HB 56 does not provide resources to state agencies whose mission is to protect drinking water from illegal chemicals. The bill also unduly rolls back environmental protections regarding landfills, river basins and beaches.

"This cynical legislation fails to address the concerns of families in the Cape Fear region and does nothing to protect drinking water statewide going forward," said Gov. Cooper.

**[Read Gov. Cooper's full statement here.](#)**

**NC Joins U.S. Climate Alliance**



This week, Gov. Cooper announced that North Carolina will join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition currently made of 15 states that are committed to reducing their share of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

"Clean air and a healthy environment are vital for a strong economy and a healthier future," Gov. Cooper said. "So much of North Carolina's economy relies on protecting our treasured natural resources, and I'm committed to maintaining the quality of the air we breathe for generations to come."

This is just the latest action taken by the Cooper Administration to help combat climate change. Gov. Cooper recently signed into law House Bill 589, Competitive Energy Solutions for North Carolina, which will roughly double North Carolina's solar generation over the next four years.

**[Learn more about North Carolina's role in the U.S. Climate Alliance here.](#)**

**Wishing Livingstone College Students Well at Fall Convocation**



On Friday, Gov. Cooper traveled to Salisbury to deliver a fall convocation address to students and faculty at Livingstone College, a historically black college. During his remarks, the governor encouraged students set intentions for the upcoming schoolyear and the years to follow.

"Living with purpose means something different for every person," Gov. Cooper said. "I'd like to share with you what living a life of purpose means to me, and then I'd like to challenge you to think about what it means to you."

#### Photo of the Week

Father, son on opposing sides of WFU-ASU game / D1

# WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

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THURSDAY

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► Festival puts the diversity of Hispanic cultures on display / relish

Dewey's introducing line of six cookies for wholesale market / A4

## Maria destroys homes, triggers flooding

Category 5 Hurricane knocks out power all across Puerto Rico

BY ANDREW KELLY  
mkelley@journalnow.com

**MAVILDO HUERTA RIVERA** — Hurricane Maria has already caused major damage to Puerto Rico, leveled entire neighborhoods, knocked out power across the entire island and triggered flooding and rising rivers. Widespread power outages throughout the island have left many people without electricity.

Leaving about one person per household in the eastern portion of the island intact, a Category 5 hurricane with winds of 155 mph, it passed the western side of the island, bringing winds of up to 140 mph. In the eastern portion, the second wave of winds, the eye wall, hit the island, causing more damage.

MARILYN PEPPER / A1

### Quake relief push begins

Local groups plan to send water, food and other vital aid

BY ANDREW KELLY  
mkelley@journalnow.com

Local churches and the American Red Cross are helping to coordinate relief efforts to help earthquake victims in Mexico.

A 7.1 magnitude quake, which struck central Mexico on Tuesday, killing at least 30 people. Police, firefighters and medical workers dug frantically through the rubble of collapsed buildings, including apartment buildings, Wednesday, looking for survivors.

Widespread search and rescue teams announced the toll would rise. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said about 10,000 people were missing.

The Rev. Dennis DeGarmo, director of the National Council of Churches Christian Disaster Relief, said he spoke with church leaders Wednesday about ways to help the earthquake victims in Mexico. The church has disaster relief teams based out of Atlanta to assist before aftershocks occur, he said.

"It's very encouraging, but we also know that there's no doubt that we will be involved," he said. "The eight things we do."

He said NCC is holding funds from Widespread's quake relief fund, which was established Sept. 7 in the wake of Harvey's flood. That is a major way quake relief efforts will continue, as the NCC has already received a large part of

More Inside

Widespread reaches out to local faith leaders

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MARILYN PEPPER / A1

## 6 million meals



Genie Cooper (left) and her wife, Ruth, hand out meals to a man on a bench in a neighborhood.

Cooper honors Senior Services' Meals on Wheels as program hits milestone

BY ANDREW KELLY  
mkelley@journalnow.com

Genie Cooper, 91, and her wife, Ruth, hand out meals to the community before stopping at their home in the Hillsboro neighborhood of Winston-Salem.

"I'm so glad we're doing this," she says.

But they Widespread was a little surprised when they stopped by.

A break occurred at the door and in walked the program's founder, Jim Young.

"They are in the top of

the class," Cooper said.

Young, 61, is the founder of the renowned 61st Annual Food from the Heart, a non-profit organization that helps people who are in need of emotional support.

Young and Cooper chatted about her days as a young woman. At the height of her career, she was a singer who traveled the country performing.

Young founded Cooper's

and organized an open-

house dinner for

and her wife Ruth had



**Governor Roy Cooper** @NC\_Governor · Sep 19  
Gov. Cooper on #GrahamCassidy Health Care Legislation:



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The latest proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act may be even worse than previous proposals: raising premiums, weakening protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and slashing over \$1 billion from North Carolina's Medicaid program. North Carolina's middle-class families will be worse off if this passes.

Senate Republicans in Washington must work with Democrats to reach a bipartisan solution that expands health care coverage and makes it better.

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Governor Cooper's Press Office  
Governor Cooper's Press Office  
116 West Jones St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603

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